

THE PACIFIC COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER

WALTER G. SMITH : : : : : EDITOR.

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ONE YEAR'S HAWAIIAN COMMERCE.

Trade returns of the Territory of Hawaii for the year ending June, 1905, compared with those for the previous corresponding year, are at hand and furnish most interesting matter. They appear in the "Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance of the United States," issued by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor, for the month of June. While it would be impossible, without exhaustive investigation of details, to reduce the data to last analyses, there are some reasonable inferences obtainable from the figures which give encouragement to the cause of diversified industries. It is cheering to see, in respect to various natural products that the Hawaiian soil is well able to yield, that imports from the mainland have decreased and exports thereto increased. A fair deduction is that the Territory is making progress toward self-sustenance, both for man and beast, besides supplying people over sea with many staples and luxuries of food out of its superabundance.

Some comparisons from the statistics, which seem to bear out the cheerful view just stated, may here be given. Hawaii received from the United States in the year just passed animals less in value by \$20,230 than in the previous year, and exported thereto \$2186 value of animals in 1904-5, against nothing in 1903-4. Of breadstuffs the imports from the mainland show a decrease of \$109,314, of which wheat flour represents \$72,993 and animal feed \$55,459. In fruits and nuts imports decreased by \$26,192, while exports increased by \$65,648. Under the same head the export of canned fruits more than doubled in the year. Hawaii took \$37,997 less value of vegetables from the mainland and sent \$3413 more value there the past as compared with the previous year. Coffee decreased in imports \$1687 and increased in exports \$4445, the difference in quantity being 64,804 pounds in favor of 1904-5. Of provisions, including meat and dairy products, there is a decrease of \$22,790 in imports and an increase of \$1927 in exports. Rice, of which the domestic consumption exceeds the production, shows an increased export of \$82,804 to the States, against an increased import of \$159,887, which appears to be the only exception, where like products were exchanged, of an increased balance against Hawaii.

Coming to Hawaii's main staple, it is found that the export of brown sugar in 1903-4 was 736,491,992 pounds, valued at \$24,359,885, and that in 1904-5 the quantity was 811,603,329 pounds, valued at \$33,946,036, or an increase of 75,111,337 pounds and \$9,586,151 value. The importation of refined sugar declined the past year, as compared with the previous one, by \$52,755, while refined sugar appeared for the first time as a Hawaiian export, 21,119,058 pounds, valued at \$1,166,091, going to the mainland. Just one plantation here refines its sugar and the figures of this new article of export may contain matter of great importance to the operators of other plantations. Calculation will show that while the quantity of refined sugar exported goes 38.43 times into the quantity of raw sugar, the valuation of the refined goes but 29.11 times into that of the raw. In other words, dropping the fractions, a thirty-eighth of the quantity is good for a twenty-ninth of the value, comparing refined with raw. This probably is a profitable margin to cover whatever loss of weight there may be in refining.

Besides the comparisons made hereinbefore, for the purpose indicated, there are other interesting things in the returns. It is surprising, in view of the decline in cycling, to find the import of cycles and parts thereof almost the same last year as the year before. On the other hand, there is nothing astonishing, to anyone who has lived here two years, in the increase of \$66,047 in the value of automobiles imported. While the liquor bill, for all sorts of alcoholic beverages, has remained almost the same, there is a falling off shown in malt liquors of \$31,603 value. This is another item where local enterprise meeting a demand is illustrated.

Following are extracts from the official tables, the years being those ending June, 1904 and 1905, respectively:

Shipments of Domestic Merchandise from the United States to Hawaii.

Articles.	1904.	1905.
Agricultural implements	\$ 26,010	\$ 13,083
Animals	93,146	72,916
Art works, paintings and statuary	1,837	25
Books, maps, engravings, etchings and other printed matter	104,373	61,855
Breadstuffs, etc.	1,512,311	1,402,997
Wheat flour	513,210	440,217
Bran, middlings and mill feed	257,796	202,337

(The last two items are included in total of breadstuffs, etc.)

Bricks, including fire	14,921	9,073
Cars, carriages, etc.	74,412	156,546
Automobiles	6,833	72,880
Cycles, and parts of	15,064	14,385
Cars other than steam railroad		10,537

(The last three items are included in total of cars, etc.)

Cement	31,893	56,019
Chemicals	202,436	220,919
Coal (bit.)	35,251	51,921
Coffee	15,118	13,431
Cloths	252,285	262,285
Bags	1,832	38,410
Fruits and nuts	173,492	147,300
Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,453,160	1,249,462
Provisions, including meat and dairy products	547,162	524,372
Malt liquors	111,974	80,371
Spirits, wines and malt liquors; total	468,179	456,105
Sugar, refined	107,503	54,748
Tobacco, etc.	522,945	528,373
Vegetables	202,466	164,469
Wood, and manufactures thereof	589,884	527,437
Total value of shipments	11,602,080	11,643,519
Carried in American steam vessels	7,462,944	7,870,900
Carried in American sailing vessels	4,137,776	3,772,619

Domestic Merchandise Shipped from Hawaii to United States.

Articles.	1904.	1905.
Animals		\$ 2,186
Art works, paintings and statuary	\$ 13,480	1,447
Books, etc.	32,962	10,364
Carriages	3,450	7,331
Coffee, green or raw	169,172	173,617
Fruits and nuts	127,725	193,373
Canned fruits, included in above	32,183	66,876
Iron, etc.	69,466	33,732
Leather	4,134	9,969
Meat and dairy products	5,054	6,981
Rice	1,610	84,414
Sugar, brown	24,359,885	33,946,036
Sugar, refined		1,166,091
Vegetables	3,160	6,573
Wood, and manufactures thereof	43,838	48,673
Total value of shipments	25,133,533	36,069,109
Carried in American steam vessels	9,906,656	15,358,199
Carried in American sailing vessels	15,226,877	20,710,910

The excess of shipments hence to the mainland for the past over the previous year is the handsome sum of \$10,935,576.

Hawaii imported of foreign merchandise \$3,797,641 in 1903-4, and \$3,014,964 in 1904-5, a decrease of \$782,677. It exported to foreign countries \$39,016 value in 1903-4, and \$54,758 in 1904-5, an increase of \$15,742. Japan was our biggest foreign customer in 1905, taking \$20,857 worth of merchandise, against \$4794 in 1904. Australasia bought \$16,851 worth from us in 1904, but only \$4883 in 1905.

It looks as if private enterprise were going to give Kahului the boon that the visiting members of the Hawaiian Commission in 1898 as good as promised on behalf of the United States government. That is, a breakwater.

SOME PLANTS THAT HIDE.

C. G. Pringle, for many years a famous plant collector, especially in Mexico and the arid regions of the United States, speaks of a native grass of Northern Mexico, Muhlenbergia Texana, as such a favorite with all grazing animals that it is usually exterminated or nearly so, except when growing under the protection of thorny shrubs, usually mesquite bushes. In Arizona during the winter and spring, the Indians bring it long distances into the towns to sell. He adds:

"How many times I have contended with the horrid mesquite bushes to gather an armful of this grass to carry joyfully to my hungry and jaded horses. In such cases the thorns, spines and perhaps bitter taste of the bushes not only protect the young growth and leaves of certain plants, but furnish shelter for other tender and nutritious herbage."

"In arid regions, especially, similar instances of protection by thorn bushes are numerous."

Again, some plants retire beneath the surface of the ground at the close of the growing season, especially in regions subject to drouths or cold, remaining secure beneath the surface for months in the form of bulbs, tubers and rootstocks. At such times they are nearly sure to escape destruction by animals. Examples are Solomon's seal, Dutchmen's breeches, May apple, gold-enrod and artichoke. Other plants are protected by water, and of these Professor Reel says:

"Not only the flowers of many species of plants as they project above the surface of the water are protected from most unwelcome insects, but the whole plants as well. Mud turtles, certain fishes, water snails, larvae of insects, eat aquatic plants but most other animals are unable to reach them in such places."

"Water plantain, wild rice, pond lilies, arrowhead, pickerel weed, pondweed, lizard's tail, bulrush, cattail flag, water dock and many more of their associates, root at the bottom with leaves floating on the surface or projecting above."

"Innumerable low forms, known as algae, are at home in lakes, ponds and streams or on the surface of the water, while other kinds thrive in salt or in brackish water. These aquatic find protection below the surface or by extending above it not only from numerous animals, but they have no competition with others which can grow only on dry or moist soil."—Philadelphia Record.

TRANSPORT SERVICE.

Solace, at San Francisco.
Lawton, at San Francisco.
Sheridan, left Manila, Aug. 14, for Honolulu.
Thomas, at San Francisco, repairing.
Logan, at Manila.
Dix, at Manila.
Burford, to sail from San Francisco for Honolulu and Manila, Sept. 5.
Sherman, left Honolulu for Manila, August 14.
Warren, at San Francisco.
Iris, U. S. N. supply steamer, sails August 30 from San Francisco for Honolulu.

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